

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittees held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Mayor Gamble, Deputy Mayor Schulman and Councilor DeLorenzo

Other Council Members present: Councilor Neuwirth and Washington

Absent were: Councilors Rivers and Hypolite

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, Cindy Coville, Director of Human Resources, Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer, Roberta LaMonaca, Director of Library Services and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Guest: Mark Weisman, Chair of the Library Building Committee, Scott MacDonald, Project Leader and Josephine Agnello-Veley of Human Resource Consortium (HRC), Jeannette O'Connell and Richard Szyzapek, Architects – Tai Soo Kim Partners, LLC, Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities, Bloomfield Board of Education, Luis Ocasio, Jack Schafer and John Carbone – Power Point Energy, Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC, Valerie Rossetti – CEEC

The meeting was called to order at 6:40p.m.

Update from the Library Building Committee

Mr. Mark Weisman, Chair of the Library Building Committee gave a brief status report on the progress of the committee.

Mr. Weisman reviewed the State of Connecticut guidelines for the grant application. Awards are approximately \$500,000 - \$1,000,000 and focus on needs of the community.

A letter of intent, including qualifications for a state of the art facility is due by June 30, 2015. The current building is 20,470 sq.ft. with a recommendation to include pertinent key features and services is 33,200 gross sq.ft. Additional services may include but not limited to a café and a variety of maker spaces.

It was noted that there are several differences with the lack of current services including: public access to computers, meeting rooms and special miscellaneous areas.

Libraries are viewed as a civic institution and need for the community at large. The committee will submit a future request of the Council to support the grant application submission and potential budget referendum for funding.

Mr. Richard Szpazek, Architect with Tai Soo Kim Partners, LLC presented the review of options score sheet. This sheet will be used as a matrix to identify pros and cons to site locations.

In addition, this committee has been coordinating with Centerbrook Architects hired to design 330 Park Avenue. The committee will review and evaluate shared or new spaces for possible collaboration with Library Services.

The committee will also be utilizing Goman & York, Economic Development consultants for the town, to review and evaluate leasing options for Wintonbury Mall. They will also look at the existing building and provide advice on possibilities for development.

Mrs. Roberta LaMonaca, Director of Library Services reviewed the importance of 21st Century libraries in comparison with per capita and community.

Deputy Mayor Schulman commented on an option at the Town Hall site.

Councilor Washington inquired about the grant funding, which is strictly designated to the overall project. In addition, he mentioned collaboration between the library and the Bloomfield Board of Education. It was noted that the library currently has programs and reserved curriculum for Bloomfield students.

Councilor DeLorenzo expressed concerns on milestone target dates for final presentation to the Town Council of April 25th and May 9th. It was noted that this project is not linked to the FY 2016/2017 budget process.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr. suggested to do a briefing on all three capital projects at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Schenck, Jr. also spoke briefly about the budget referendum process, bond anticipation notes and debt service modeling.

He also suggested to schedule a taping of "Bloomfield Today" as a venue to inform the public on the three major capital projects to improving the town's infrastructure.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about plans for flood prevention at current site.

Ms. Valerie Rossetti, resident and CEEC member inquired about the consideration to explore expansion north of the current site.

Solar Presentation by Bloomfield Board of Education

Mr. John Carbone of Green Point Energy presented their Renewable Energy opportunity for the Town of Bloomfield.

The goal of this initiative is to identify a renewable saving opportunity for the Town of Bloomfield resulting in sustainable energy cost reductions.

Green Point Energy has identified 1133 Blue Hills Avenue as a site which can accommodate in total 2.4 megawatts of solar power. The site is open undeveloped with 5 acres, suitable for a 2.4 megawatt ground mounted solar array, net metered PV power plant and distribution of generated power to 5 buildings.

Mr. Wayne Casper, Director of Facilities presented the Board's plan for Carmen Arace Middle School in partnership with Kingspan Energy. This plan will include an installation of a 9 kilowatt system, powered directly to the school to reduce cost to the town.

The Purchase Plan Agreement will be for 20 years. The town is currently paying 17.1 cents a kilowatt, which would be reduced to 13.6 cents a kilowatt fixed estimated at \$2,188,000. These estimated costs are based on current usage. There is an option after 10 years to buy the unit at fair market value.

The Board of Education is in favor of moving forward with this project. Due to the long term contract, the opinion of the Town Council was warranted.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about the differences with Green Point vs. Kingspan. Mr. Casper explained that the Green Point proposal would benefit usage at additional buildings versus the current of usage at CAMS, 1,318,350 kilowatts.

Mayor Gamble asked about solar plans at Wintonbury Early Childhood Magnet School. There are conduit pipes installed, however they were not positioned in the right direction.

The timeframe for completion of this project is mid-December. However, the application submission deadline is June 2015 to the CT Green Bank, who will own the panels.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. inquired about an analysis of all school buildings and the five acre lot rear of the Administrative offices to the Board of Education. Both the town and Board of Education need to have a consensus on the various variables included in this analysis.

Deputy Mayor Schulman requested additional information for a cost benefit analysis of the five acre lot for solar array structure or development.

HRC (Human Resource Consortium) – Affirmative Action Status Update Report

Mr. Scott MacDonald and Ms. Josephine Agnello-Veley presented their updated Affirmative Action report for the town.

In this report, they identified the problem areas including underutilization of minorities and women is below the statistical availability analysis in any particular job group. The goal is to select through hire or promotion minority and/or female applicants at a minimum of 80% of their availability rate.

Mr. MacDonald also gave an overview of the total selection process, terminations (adverse impact) and concentrations and underrepresentation by job groups.

Presentation by Filley Park Committee – Review, Discussion and Recommendation to Finance Subcommittee and Town Council: Filley Park Committee's Request for \$5,000 from Town Council Contingency for Promotional Brochure and Related Expenses

Councilor Neuwirth suggested that the committee develop a presentation for major corporate taxpayers in town.

It was moved by Councilor DeLorenzo, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to recommend to the full Council approval of \$5,000 for the Filley Park Fundraising Committee, subject to the Town Manager negotiating with the committee financial oversight and review.

Town Manager's Goals FY 15/16 – Status Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager gave a status update regarding his goals set for August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016.

The town newsletter will be submitted for print in the next few days. This newsletter briefly mentions the three major capital projects.

Initial presentation hearings are scheduled for March 10, 2016 for the FY 2016/2017 town and Board of Education budget.

A meeting with Virtual town Hall will be held on March 9, 2016 to discuss revamping the town's website.

The next BATV taping of "Bloomfield Today" is scheduled for March 16, 2016. Mr. Schenck, Jr. and Mr. William Hogan, Director of Finance will present an overview of the FY 2016/2017 budget.

The town applied through CRCOG for a grant to complete the south portion of Woodland Avenue (Wintonbury to Peters Road).

Mr. Schenck, Jr. stated that he would like to schedule a tour at Public Works facility with all Councilors.

Centerbrook Architects are moving along with architectural plans for 330 Park Avenue.

A public hearing may need to be scheduled with neighbors on Mountain Avenue regarding responsibility for snow removal once sidewalk installation is complete.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. and Goman & York remain consistent at visiting businesses in town including: Total Wall, S & S Grinding, Absolute, CIGNA and Stephanie Pias, leasing agent for Wintonbury mall

The next Bloomfield Business Alliance meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

Carbone's Kitchen will sponsor a CCMC fundraiser on June 23, 2016. Mr. Vince Carbone, owner of Carbone's Kitchen and Leisure Services will collaborate with Summer Concerts on the Green. Leisure may contribute a tent to this event.

The Back to School Fun Fair will be held on August 20, 2016.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor DeLorenzo, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.